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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application Number : 10/698,402 Confirmation No. 2689  
Applicants : Jean-Louis ESCARY  
Filed : November 3, 2003  
Title : POLYPEPTIDES OF THE IFN $\alpha$ -5 GENE  
TC/Art Unit : 1647  
Examiner: : Jegatheesan SEHARASEYON  
Docket No. : 60711.000025  
Customer No. : 21967

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Sir:

Applicant provides the following Amendment and Reply to the Office Action mailed December 29, 2005 ("Office Action"), in the above-captioned application.

This Amendment and Reply is submitted within three (3) months of the mailing date of the Office Action which is up to and including March 29, 2006. As such, Applicants believe that no fees are required. In the event that any fee is deemed necessary by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to enter and consider this Amendment and Reply or to maintain the present application pending, please charge such fees to the undersigned's **Deposit Account No. 50-0206**.

This Amendment and Reply is provided in the following format:

**Amendments to the Specification** begins on page 2 of this paper;

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper; and

**Remarks** begin on page 14 of this paper.

**Appendix A** is attached.